

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 15, 16, and 17, and add Claims 18 through 21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing image data, the apparatus comprising:
  - specifying means for specifying a playback procedure of the image data;
  - detecting means for detecting date information ~~regarding~~ of the image data specified in the playback procedure specified by said specifying means;
  - playlist processing means for generating playlist data indicating the playback procedure specified by said specifying means, and for generating date information of the playlist data based on the image data's date information detected by said detecting means; and
  - recording means for recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium, the date information of the playlist data being recorded separately from the image data's date information.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording means generates a playlist file including the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data, and records the playlist file on the recording medium.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~wherein the date information of the playlist further comprises~~ further comprising means for storing a generation date of the playlist data.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data that is to be played back first among the image data specified in the playlist data.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data that is to be played back last among the image data specified in the playlist data.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data having date information indicating an oldest date among the image data specified in the playlist data.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data having date information indicating a latest date among the image data specified in the playlist data.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means further generates thumbnail image data of the playlist data based on the image data specified in the playlist data, and the recording means further records the thumbnail image data of the playlist data in association with the playlist data on the recording medium.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data selected from the image data specified in the playlist data, and generates thumbnail image data of the playlist data based on the image data selected.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playlist processing means further generates recording-position information of the playlist data based on position information indicating a recording position regarding the image data specified in the playlist data, and the recording means further records the recording-position information of the playlist data in association with the playlist data on the recording medium.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the playlist processing means generates date information of the playlist data based on date information of image data selected from the image data specified in the playlist data, and generates recording-position information of the playlist data based on position information of the image data selected.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image data specified in the playlist data is recorded on the recording medium.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising display control means for displaying information regarding the image data and information regarding the playlist data recorded on the recording medium, in an order based on the date information.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a recording medium that allows random access.

15. (Currently Amended) A signal processing method for processing image data, the method comprising the steps of:

specifying a playback procedure of the image data;

detecting date information ~~regarding~~ of the image data specified in the playback procedure specified by said specifying step;

generating playlist data indicating the playback procedure specified by said specifying step, and generating date information of the playlist data based on the image data's date information detected by said detecting step; and

recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium, the date information of the playlist data being recorded separately from the image data's date information.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing image data and playlist data indicating a playback procedure of the image data, the apparatus comprising:

detecting means for detecting date information ~~regarding~~ of the image data specified in the playback procedure indicated by the playlist data;

playlist processing means for generating date information of the playlist data based on the image data's date information detected by said detecting means; and

recording means for recording the playlist data and the date information of the playlist data in association with each other on a recording medium, the date information of the playlist data being recorded separately from the image data's date information.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 16, further comprising display control means for sorting the image data and the playlist data on the basis of the ~~data~~ date information of the image data and the ~~data~~ date information of the playlist data and for displaying information regarding the image data and the playlist in the sorted order.

18. (New) A method comprising:

sorting a plurality of files comprising a media file and a playlist file storing a playlist indicating a playback procedure of the media file, wherein a date used for sorting the playlist file is a date of a media file on the playlist and not a generation date of the playlist.

19. (New) A method for displaying a date of an image data file and date of a playlist file storing a playlist indicating a playback procedure of the image data file, the method comprising:

displaying, as the date of the playlist file, the date of the image data file on the playlist instead of the date of generation of the playlist.

20. (New) An apparatus for processing a plurality of files comprising an image data file and a playlist file storing a playlist indicating a playback procedure of the image data file, the apparatus comprising:

sorting means for the plurality of files using dates of respective files, wherein a date used for sorting the playlist file is a date of an image data file on the playlist and not a generation date of the playlist; and

playback means for playing back the image data file based on the playlist.

21. (New) An apparatus for processing an image data file and a playlist file storing a playlist indicating a playback procedure of the image data file, the apparatus comprising:

display means for displaying a date of the image data file and a date of the playlist file on a display device, said display means displaying, as the date of the playlist file, the date of the image data on the playlist instead of the date of generation of the playlist; and

playback means for playing back the image data file based on the playlist.